

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for executing a washing program in a dishwasher, the method comprising:

within a dishwasher having a spray system for spraying a liquid onto crockery that has been disposed statically in the dishwasher, providing a washing liquid to be eventually sprayed by the spray system, as a washing program is executed, onto the crockery in the dishwasher;

heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature in a flow section that is separate from the spray system to an extent such that the washing liquid does not substantially impinge on the crockery in the dishwasher as the washing liquid ~~it~~ is being heated in the flow section, whereupon the washing liquid is heated without substantially wetting the crockery in the dishwasher; and

after the washing liquid has been heated to the predetermined temperature, delivering the washing liquid into contact with the crockery in the dishwasher, whereupon the crockery in the dishwasher that essentially has not been heated is heated by the washing liquid.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~step of~~ heating the washing liquid to the a-predetermined temperature in the a-flow section includes heating the washing liquid in the flow section embodied separate from the spraying system as a valve circuit controllable by a program control system as a

~~preferably~~ substantially closed circuit and circulating the washing liquid in the valve circuit such that the washing liquid does not substantially impinge on the crockery in the dishwasher as the washing liquid ~~it is~~ being heated in the valve circuit.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~step of~~ heating the washing liquid to the ~~a~~-predetermined temperature in the ~~a~~-flow section includes ceasing the heating of the washing liquid at ~~a~~ ~~the~~-latest when the crockery in the dishwasher has reached the predetermined temperature for the washing liquid.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~step of~~ heating the washing liquid to the ~~a~~-predetermined temperature in the ~~a~~-flow section includes circulating the washing liquid using ~~by means of~~ a circulating pump such ~~so~~ that ~~a~~ ~~the~~ heat distribution inside the washing liquid is substantially homogeneous.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~step of~~ heating the washing liquid to the ~~a~~-predetermined temperature in the ~~a~~-flow section includes heating the washing liquid to a specific temperature in a preheating container.

14. (Currently amended) A dishwasher comprising:

a crockery retainer that statically retains ~~means for retaining~~ crockery that it is to be washed;

a spray system for spraying a liquid onto the crockery that has been disposed in the dishwasher, the spray system being operable to spray a washing liquid, as a washing program is executed, onto the crockery in the dishwasher; and

a heater ~~means~~ for heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature, the heater ~~means for heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature~~ being separate from

the spray system to an extent such that the washing liquid does not substantially impinge on the crockery in the dishwasher as the washing liquid ~~it is~~ being heated by the heater ~~means for heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature~~, whereupon the washing liquid is heated without substantially wetting the crockery in the dishwasher; and the spray system being operable to spray the washing liquid onto the crockery in the dishwasher after the washing liquid has been heated to the predetermined temperature, whereupon the crockery in the dishwasher that essentially has not been heated is heated by the washing liquid.

15. (Currently amended) The dishwasher according to claim 14, wherein the heater ~~means for heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature~~ is a container provided with a heating device.

16. (Currently amended) The dishwasher according to claim 14, ~~and~~ further comprising:

a switch ~~means~~ for manually switching an ~~the~~ operation of the heater ~~means for heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature~~ between an on condition in which the heater ~~means for heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature~~ is operable to heat the washing liquid and an off condition in which the heater ~~means for heating the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature~~ does not heat the washing liquid.

17. (New) A household dishwasher comprising:

a crockery retainer that statically retains crockery that is to be washed in the dishwasher;

a flow section that circulates a washing liquid therein to be subsequently sprayed onto the crockery as a washing program is executed, wherein the flow section heats the washing liquid to a predetermined temperature; and

a spray system for spraying the washing liquid onto the crockery in the dishwasher only after the washing liquid has been heated to the predetermined temperature by the flow section,

wherein the flow section is separate from the spray system such that the washing liquid does not substantially impinge on the crockery in the dishwasher as the washing liquid is being circulated and heated in the flow section, and

wherein the flow section includes:

a valve circuit controllable by a program control system and forming a substantially closed circuit that circulates the washing liquid; and

a heater for heating the washing liquid being circulated in the valve circuit of the flow section to the predetermined temperature.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

a circulating pump that circulates the washing liquid in the valve circuit of the flow section such that the heat distribution inside the washing liquid is substantially homogeneous.